

MATE Act Becomes Law: DEA Healthcare Provider License Holders Required to Complete 8 Hours of Education on Opioid Treatment



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Included in the [Omnibus Bill of 2022](#) was the [Restoring Hope for Mental Health Well Being Act](#), the [Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act](#) (MAT Act), and the [Medication Access and Training Expansion Act](#) (MATE Act).

The legislation, [as passed](#), does many things but particularly relevant is that it repealed the X-waiver, previously required by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for health care practitioners to prescribe Schedule III opioid buprenorphine as medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder.

While the X-waiver is repealed, the legislation now mandates that anyone other than a veterinarian under state law licensed to prescribe controlled substances and/or who holds a DEA license – including physicians, dentists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants – will be required to complete a one-time eight-hour course on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders and the safe pharmacological management of pain.

Specifically, the law requires that if a prescriber is licensed to dispense controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV, or V, that provider must undergo the eight-hour training course, effective the first applicable registration/renewal for the practitioner. For physicians, the course is to focus on the “treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, or the safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid or other substance use disorders.”

For practitioners other than physicians, the course must focus on the “treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.”

The course can be presented by a multitude of providers, including the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, and any organization approved or accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) or the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. Additionally, the training requirement [may be met](#) through a “comprehensive curriculum” in an accredited medical school or residency program, physician assistant school, or school of advanced practice nursing.

The term ‘first applicable registration’ means the first registration or renewal of registration by a qualified practitioner under this section that occurs on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment, which is June 21, 2023.

The law also notes that no qualified practitioner shall be required to complete the training more than once.

Within 90 days of the passage of the law, which is March 22, 2023, the Attorney General shall provide to qualified practitioners a written, electronic notification of the training requirement outlined within the law. Based on how the law reads, providers may only receive one notification of the requirement.

Part of this requirement was met on [January 12th with a notice sent to DEA license holders](#) on the removal of the X waiver requirements.

States are free to supplement this requirement with additional training requirements for providers licensed in their state. Currently, 29 states have additional requirements to prescribe buprenorphine.

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Comments from the Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs

- This is a federal law and a federal requirement for a new DEA registration;
- This is not a Missouri state law or regulation. The required educational hours does not apply to a Missouri state drug registration;
- This is a one-time requirement for DEA and is not required every three years;
- The law mandates a list of approved trainers and accredited organizations who can provide the training. The BNDD does not have doctors to teach proper therapy and clinical issues and proper prescribing levels so the BNDD does not have any courses available on this topic;
- This federal law is considered “passed” on March 22, 2023. It goes into effect on June 21, 2023. The requirement to receive the new training begins 180 days later on approximately December 18, 2023. So if your next DEA registrations expires after December 18, 2023, practitioners will have to show the DEA their required training certificates. All DEA registrants who are set to expire on December 31, 2023 will need to obtain the required 8 hours of continuing education.